

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 94 03:30:44 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #944
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Mon, 22 Aug 94 Volume 94 : Issue 944

Today's Topics:

 2 meter Repeaters in Europe
 ADVICE ON NEW RIG: Re: Robin, UK
 OLD QSTs
 rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 22 Aug 94 17:30:00 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: 2 meter Repeaters in Europe
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

All,
there is a standard 2meter repeater frequency allocation in use just about
everywhere in Europe, with some exceptions.
As we only have 144 to 146MHz available, the repeater band starts at 145.600
to 145.800. It is separated every 12.5KHz. So that R0 is 145.600, R1 is
145.625 etc restarting at R8 with 145.612.5, R9 with 145.637.5 etc. Shift
is always -600KHz.
Some places need a 1750Hz tone to open a repeater others dont. Ireland,
Greece (needs a PL of 88.5Hz instead), some Netherlands, some France, some
Italy dont. The rest do.
So on your next trip just put the frequencies above in your HT and enjoy 2
meter DXing. Simplex frequencies in use include 144.725 (most US military
radio clubs, our) and 145.500.
Peter, KC1QF/ON9CGV/EI4GV

Date: 22 Aug 94 17:22:00 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: ADVICE ON NEW RIG: Re: Robin, UK
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Robin,
I live in Brussels and make all my purchases for ham gear in the US, because it is just cheaper.
Let me show you:
I bought a TS450S for \$1080 at HRO. This is about UKP 720. With 4.9% import duty to the EU and another 19% VAT, it comes to about UKP 897. With shipping another UKP 50 on top. The price of the TS450S in the UK is UKP 1300. See the difference!
I use a TS50S which is a great radio for those 'pick the mike and speak' types who aren't concerned with bells and whistles. If you are the 450s or the 850s would be fine.
Peter Vekinis, KC1QF/EI4GV/ON9CGV

Date: 22 Aug 94 17:24:00 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: OLD QSTs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

All,
we are running a radio club here, CARE (Computers and Amateur Radio Europe) and wonder if anyone has any old QSTs he/she may be willing to throw out. We would gladly pick them up and have them at our club (It's hard to get old QSTs here). We already have 69, 75, and from 88 and up.
Thanks
Peter, KC1QF/EI4GV/ON9CGV

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 1994 05:42:55 GMT
From: amd!amdahl!amdahl.uts.amdahl.com!netnews@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Posted-By: auto-faq 3.1.1.4
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/faq/part1
Revision: 1.2 08/21/94 20:38:02

Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions

Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

This is a regular posting of frequently-asked questions (FAQ) about Amateur Radio, also known as Ham Radio. It is intended to summarize some common questions on the rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list as well as to help beginners get started.

Please provide a copy of the FAQ to any new or soon-to-be Hams you know.

Regular FAQ postings can help save network bandwidth and maintain a good signal-to-noise ratio in the newsgroup. However, they can't do it alone - you, the reader, have to use them.

- * If you are a new user, please print and review the FAQ articles and look at the instructions in the news.announce.newusers newsgroup before posting any articles. If you don't find the answer in the FAQ and you have tried elsewhere, then you have "done your homework" and it is acceptable to ask the question on the UseNet newsgroups. Along with your question, please state where else you have looked for the answer so others also know that you have done your homework.
- * If you are an experienced user, please help by refraining from answering frequently-asked questions on the newsgroup if they are already answered by the FAQ articles. Instead, send e-mail to the user who asked the question. (It will be helpful if you include the part of the FAQ that answers their question, but not the whole thing.)

The FAQ cannot always prevent people from posting repetitive questions. But even if hundreds of questions get posted, it saves you from having to answer them hundreds of times. Also, a friendly pointer to the FAQ in your first answer can help that person refer to the FAQ in the future. That is when we can begin to get a real savings of network bandwidth.

To reduce the size of each article, the FAQ information is posted in 3 parts:

Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

Part 2 - Amateur Radio Organizations, Services, and Information Sources

Part 3 - Amateur Radio Advanced and Technical Questions

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--Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently-asked Questions-----Part 1--

** Introduction to the FAQ

* How to Contribute to the FAQ Articles

We accept suggestions from the Amateur Radio community. Please consider that all new contributions need to be SHORT and concise in order to be included. If a contribution is too long, the FAQ editors can help you find a more appropriate FTP archive or mail server for your article.

We always accept corrections. Please allow some time (often not the next issue of the FAQ) because the FAQ maintainers do this as volunteers so each must give higher priority to their employers.

Send correspondence to hamradio-faq@amdahl.com so that it will reach all the FAQ coordinators: (listed in alphabetical order)

Ed Hare	KA1CV	ehare@arrl.org	(Newington, CT, USA)
Jack GF Hill	W4PPT	root@jackatak.raider.net	(Brentwood, TN, USA)
Ian Klufft	KD6EUI	iklufft@oes.amdahl.com	(Santa Clara, CA, USA)
Paul Schleck	KD3FU	pschleck@gonix.com	(Omaha, NE, USA)
Chris Swartout	N6WCP	cas30@uts.amdahl.com	(San Jose, CA, USA)
Steve Watt	KD6GGD	steve@wattres.sj.ca.us	(San Jose, CA, USA)
Rosalie White	WA1STO	rwhite@arrl.org	(Newington, CT, USA)
Derek Wills	AA5BT	oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu	(Austin, TX, USA)

* Do Not Ask Questions of the Editors

We wish it wasn't necessary to say this. Please don't send questions to the editors (unless you are sending an answer with it as a submission for the FAQ.) The proper procedure for questions on UseNet is 1) Read the FAQ, 2) if it isn't there, check other sources, and 3) post on the newsgroup.

The Internet has become an atmosphere where questions are asked of everyone as if they have an infinite amount of time to help. The volunteers who maintain the FAQ do not have time to answer questions. Some FAQ maintainers on the Net have been led to believe that no good deed goes unpunished - let's avoid bringing the same end to this effort.

* Acknowledgements

All questions listed as modified "pre-4/92" are entirely Diana Carlson KC1SP's work or her editing of a contributor's work. Diana established this FAQ and credit is due to her for founding this project.

Thanks to Devon Bowen KA2NRC for accepting this FAQ in e-mail every month to keep the FTP archive at ftp.cs.buffalo.edu up-to-date.

* Notes on "Netiquette"

The rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list have a large daily volume of traffic. They can operate more efficiently if the following netiquette guidelines are followed. Please take them seriously.

- * If you are new to UseNet, the introductory articles in news.announce.newusers are required reading. Go to that newsgroup now. Definitely, read the instructions there before posting anything. Other rec.radio.amateur.* readers will appreciate it!
- * Pick the right newsgroup. Use only the most specific newsgroup for your subject. For example, a question about a homebrew antenna only needs to be posted to rec.radio.amateur.antenna. Also, don't post to rec.radio.amateur.misc when the subject can go in another

rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroup. So, when there is a more specific newsgroup, that's the one you want.

- * When posting a followup article, ALWAYS try to minimize the number of lines of quoted material from the original article.
- * As a general rule when you try to determine whether to reply to someone by e-mail or with a followup article, remember to "praise in public, criticize in private." It's OK to disagree technically but be careful not to attack the person with whom you disagree. Also, be careful with your use of the word "you" when posting a follow-up article. Many unnecessary flame wars have started that way.
- * Use a descriptive subject. For example, a message subject of "Ham Radio" tells the reader NOTHING about the contents of your article since the whole newsgroup is about Ham Radio. Other examples of subjects which are so broad that they become useless could include, "Help," "A Question," "Antennas," or "Frequencies." Maybe "Books on Antennas?" or "Where can I find Repeater Frequencies?" would be better, for example. Remember, in a busy newsgroup a lot of users decide which articles to read from the subject line alone. If you post, don't deprive yourself of an audience!
- * Before answering a question, check if the FAQ adequately answers it or if someone else already answered it. If you have more to add, make sure to reference either the FAQ or the related articles.
- * If a user posts a question which is directly answered by the FAQ, there is no need to post an answer - the information is already available on the newsgroup. Instead, just send an e-mail message which politely explains where to find the FAQ. They will probably appreciate it if you include the answer to their question. (Don't send a "nastygram" - that would just discourage future participation.)
- * Pay attention to the size of your audience - use the "Distribution:" header. If you leave it blank, your message will go to every civilized country in the world and occupy disk space in all news systems in all those places. If that's what you intend, that's fine but make sure your article is relevant outside your country. (In particular, Hams should already know there is more to the world than just their own country.)
- * If you have an item for sale, please limit the distribution area so that, for example, an article about a radio for sale in New Jersey won't get to California or Europe. If you wish, you may cross-post your for-sale article to rec.radio.swap.
- * Software sources should be posted to either alt.sources, comp.sources.misc, or comp.sources.* for a specific machine type. Software binaries should be posted to the appropriate subgroup of comp.binaries.

** What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio is a non-commercial radio communication service whose primary aims are public service, technical training and experimenta-

tion, and communication between private persons. Amateur Radio operators are commonly called hams. Hams often communicate with each other recreationally but also provide communications for others at public events or in times of emergency or disaster.

** Who can become a ham?

The answer to this question differs in every country.

The answer for the USA is listed below. If your country has a newsgroup specifically for it (i.e. UK, Australia, Germany) the most accurate answers can be found there. See Part 2 for the list of region-specific newsgroups.

If that doesn't help, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) may be able to help because they communicate with similar organizations in other countries, probably including yours. They can be reached by electronic mail or surface mail (see Part 2.)

In the USA, anyone who is not a representative of a foreign government can be an Amateur Radio operator. There are tests that you must pass to get a license, however the tests are not insurmountable. On that general level, the requirements are probably similar in almost every country.

For more information on becoming a Ham in the USA, the ARRL has a toll-free number where you can request information: 1-800-32-NEW-HAM (don't worry about the number being one digit too long - the phone system ignores it.) Other information can also be obtained from the ARRL e-mail information server in the file called PROSPECT. Details on the server are in Part 2.

** Where can I locate information and books on Amateur Radio?

Your local Radio Shack sells some ham radios and Amateur Radio license books. Books can also be obtained through the mail from ham radio organizations, such as ARRL in Newington, CT (203-666-1541) and W5YI in Dallas, TX (1-800-669-9594). There may be one or two ham radio stores in the local area (ie, within 50 miles). Try looking in the Yellow Pages under Radio Communications.

For the Novice license, get a Novice License manual, plus 5-word-per-minute Morse code tapes, costing around \$25. For the Technician license, get a combined Novice and Technician License manual, and an FCC Rules manual, costing around \$32. The FCC Rules manual is a good idea for Novice also, but not necessary, since the Novice License manual contains all the FCC Rules that are required for the Novice License.

The ARRL Education Activities Department has several programs to help amateurs (or prospective amateurs) to get started. Ask for a "New prospect package" available free of charge, from ARRL HQ, Educational Activities Department, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Information on Ham Radio can also be obtained with your computer. Part 2 of this FAQ contains a significant amount of material on that subject.

**** How much does it cost?**

To take the tests for any class of amateur radio license, there is a small charge (around \$5-\$6 currently) to cover copying costs and running the testing sessions. (Due to changes in 1993, Novice tests are under same procedures as the others.) The cost of a radio is really dependent on what you want to do. You can make your own radio and antenna for under \$150. You can buy a used single-band radio for \$150-\$300. Or you can buy a new multi-band multi-mode radio with all the doodads for \$300-\$3000. I'd suggest you learn more about ham radio, talk to local hams, find out what you want to do with ham radio first.

**** Where can I take the tests?**

The Novice tests Used to be given by any two qualified hams of General class license or above. Now all the license tests are given by three qualified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who volunteer their time.

To locate an ARRL testing session in your area, you can contact ARRL at 203-666-1541 x282.

See also the section "Where can I find VE sessions in my local area?" in Part 2 because more information is available via UseNet.

**** What are the tests like?**

First off, come prepared to VE sessions. Bring: TWO forms of ID, one of which has a picture on it; a calculator (if necessary); a pen and two pencils; the applicable examination fee (around \$5-\$6 for 1993); the original AND a copy of your current Amateur Radio license (if you have one); the original AND a copy of any CSCEs for tests you've already passed (if you have any).

Each of the written tests (Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra) are generally a multiple choice test of approximately one-tenth of the question pool. For example, if the question pool is approximately 300 questions, then the test will be a 30-question test. You need to get 75% correct to pass. Note that they truncate to determine the correct number of questions. That means for a 30 question test, you need to get 22 right, which is actually only 73.3%.

Once you've paid the small fee for Technician-Extra tests, it costs no extra to take another test, so I'd suggest you keep taking the next more advanced test until you fail. If you pass the written but not the Morse code (or vice versa) for a specific class license, you have up to one year to take the other test before you would have to retake the written test again. Note that some VEs will not allow you to take the written test unless you've first taken the Morse code test.

The Morse code test is a receiving test only. The test run 5 to 7 minutes. After the test, you are given a 10-question multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank test. Passing grade is 7 or more. If you fail the 10-question test, the examiner team will examine your copy sheet to see if you have 1 minute of solid copy with no errors. For 5 wpm, that's 25 characters, for 13 wpm, that's 65 characters, for 20 wpm, that's 100 characters. If they can find 1 minute solid copy, you've still passed.

Hints on Morse code tests: Generally, it will be a standard QSO (conversation), and it MUST contain at least one of each of the following:

26 letters A-Z, 10 numbers 0-9, comma (,), period (.), slant or slash (/), question mark (?), double dash prosign (BT), end of message prosign (AR), end of contact prosign (SK).

The letters count as one character, all others count as two characters. There are a couple other prosigns which are worth knowing, but will not be on the test, like "I'm done talking, next" is K, "I'm done talking, back to you" is KN, "Please wait" is AS.

** What can I do with a ham radio license?

There are so many things, it's a difficult question to answer, but here's some ideas:

- * Talk to people in foreign countries.
- * Talk to people (both local and far away) on your drive to work.
- * Help in emergencies by providing communications.
- * Provide communications in parades or walkathons.
- * Help other people become hams.
- * Hook your computer to your radio and communicate by computers.
- * Collect QSL cards (cards from other hams) from all over the United States and foreign countries and receive awards.
- * Participate in contests or Field Day events.
- * Provide radio services to your local Civil Defense organization thru ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) or RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service).
- * Aid members of the US military by joining MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System).
- * Participate in transmitter hunt games and maybe build your own direction-finding equipment.

- * Have someone to talk to on those sleepless nights at home.
- * Receive weather pictures via satellites.
- * Build radios, antennas, learn some electronics and radio theory.
- * Talk to astronauts in space, or use the moon to bounce signals back to people on the Earth.
- * Experiment with Amateur TV (ATV), Slow-Scan TV (SSTV), or send still-frame pictures by facsimile.
- * Experiment with amateur satellite communications.

** What can't I do with an Amateur Radio license?

The most important thing you can't do is transact business of any kind over ham radio. Interference to other hams or services, as well as obscene, profane or indecent language is not tolerated and is illegal. Music and broadcasting are not allowed on ham radio. Some personal conversations may not be appropriate to Amateur Radio. Do you really want the whole world to hear about Aunt Mabel's hemorrhoids?

** I'm interested, who will help me?

There are hams who are willing to become "Elmers" (mentors, helpers) in your local area. Look around and ask local hams. Search out local radio clubs. As well, some people have volunteered to be an Elmer over the Usenet. A list of UseNet Elmers and their e-mail addresses is posted to the newsgroup monthly. If anyone wants to be an Elmer, send e-mail to

elmers-request@unomaha.edu

There is also a lot to be said for exploring on your own. Take a look around the FTP archives and e-mail servers listed in Part 2. There's so much out there on UseNet, you'll find plenty of things you're interested in.

** Should I build my own equipment or antenna?

[see also rec.radio.amateur.homebrew and rec.radio.amateur.antenna]
 "Homebrewing" is a fun and educational part of ham radio. It is a thrill to build your own transmitter and put it on the air. However, building your own receiver can be quite complicated; if you don't have electronics experience, you may want to buy a receiver instead. Most homebrew transmitters are QRP (transmit very low power). That's fine for an experienced ham with a very good antenna, but a Novice ham will just get frustrated. Your first rig, therefore should NOT be a homebrew.

Antennas can be much simpler projects than the transceiver, though some types are also quite involved. Most hams build their own antennas for base station use and buy antennas for mobile (car) use. Most beginner ham books describe how to build different types of antennas. Order of difficulty, from easiest to more difficult, for some common

antennas are: wire dipole, Zepp, Yagi, Quad, and Log-Periodic. Books from many sources, including ARRL and several Hams, discuss antennas in depth.

When building or even understanding antennas, it is good to know the relationship between the antenna element length and the frequency or wavelength it is designed for. An antenna performs best at multiples of 1/4 of that wavelength, though 5/8 wave also has beneficial qualities. The wavelength is related to the frequency with the following formula:

$$\text{wavelength (in meters)} = 300 / \text{frequency (in megahertz)}$$

You do not need a huge antenna or tower like ones you may see around your neighborhood. Large beam antennas and 40-foot towers are very expensive. As a beginner, a simple dipole antenna is perfectly adequate. As you gain experience (and money :-), you may want to invest in something bigger.

If you can afford new rigs and antennas, there are many mail order stores that advertise in ham radio magazines. If you want to buy a used rig, the best place is at a "hamfest" (ham flea market). You should take along an experienced ham, since some of the used equipment may be inoperative, overpriced or poor quality. You can also answer ads in ham magazines or posted at ham radio stores, although often, by the time you call, the equipment has already been sold.

Date: 22 Aug 1994 06:25:31 GMT
From: nntp.crl.com!jeffj@decwrl.dec.com
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <CuunEJ.KHo@osuunx.ucc.okstate.edu>,
<1994Aug21.120025.1@aspen.uml.edu>, <hQzTtm5.brunelli_pc@delphi.com>
Subject : Re: Why Some people hate Wayne Green

brunelli_pc@delphi.com wrote:
: <martinja@aspen.uml.edu> writes:
: >(Gordon Cougar) writes:
: >
: >> I've followed Wayne for a lot of years. Probably his most annoying quality
: >> is it turns out that he is right an awful lot of the time.
: >
: >Hey ya know? It's funny as I have noticed the same thing. I have also
: >noticed that [insert Sara Lee song here] everybody doesn't like something.

I called 73 magazine one day on just a whim and asked to speak with Wayne

Green. They said he wasn't there but home at his ranch working on a book. They asked if I wanted his home phone number! I said sure and they gave it to me! So I called him and lo and behold he answered me on his speaker phone. I expected a grumpy old opinionated self righteous egocentric ham! What I got was a very nice pleasant conversation with him. He chuckled when I told him what I expected him to be like. He said a lot of people get that impression of him from his editorials. Oh he does have his opinions but don't we all? He said he writes those editorials to get us to think and by golly I think he's managed to get us to think a bit now and then! I did enjoy my conversation with him and would love to talk to him again. He was very gracious and took the time to chat with me when I sure he has other things to do. That in itself is a point in his favor. Wayne and I are on opposite ends of the political spectrum and I don't agree with him all that often but at least he makes me think about why I don't.

73!

Jeff

--

jeffj@crl.com | If work for a living and think the Republican party is your
AB6MB | friend. Ask Republican congressmen if they ever would side
| with labor over business. Then watch them laugh in your face!

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 1994 06:12:20 GMT
From: news.Hawaii.Edu!kahuna!jeffrey@ames.arpa
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <Cu8Htp.AL8@VOA.GOV>, <1994Aug11.170225.24967@cc.usu.edu>,
<32g78c\$oc6@thecourier.cims.nyu.edu>∞
Subject : Re: VOA Internet Audio Debuts Aug. 15

>|> > So, if we are in the states, we technically cannot download the files?
>|>
>|> Or tune the radio to VOA?

I called our US Information Agency office here in Honolulu a few years ago and asked them to send me the VOA's bcst schedule; they said 'No - the VOA bcsts are not meant for domestic reception.' Only after I explained that I was going to Viet Nam did they say 'In that case, then we CAN send you the schedule.' They explained their bcsts are meant for both foreign listeners and overseas Americans.

Jeff NH6IL

End of Info-Hams Digest V94 #944
